

“The Last Laugh” by Wilfred Owen

(Deconstructed) Poetry Explication 11H

Big Picture

- The speaker describes the deaths of three different soldiers. Each stanza is a different soldier. What are the last words of each soldier? List their quotes below (include line numbers).

Soldier 1

Soldier 2

Soldier 3

Little Picture

- Diction: Define the following words (line #s provided):

- guffawed (5)
- tittered (10)
- languid (11)
- rabbles (14)

- Owen capitalizes words *in the middle of sentences* in lines 3, 5, 8, 13, 15. List the words below:

Line 3:	Line 8:	Line 15:
Line 5:	Line 13:	

4. List 8 examples of weapons being personified. Include line numbers.

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5. Referring to the list above (in #4), put a star next to all examples that could be associated with the sound of laughter.

6. Onomatopoeia is the use of words which imitate sounds, like bang, buzz, or meow. However, the term can also be expanded to refer to any word that uses sound to suggest meaning. Identify three examples of onomatopoeia in the poem, including line numbers.

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7. The poem does not use rhyme, but there is a consistent pattern regarding the ending sound/word of most lines. What is it?

8. What effect does this give the poem?

Big Picture

9. What does it mean to get the last laugh? (Refer to the general use of the expression, not in context of the poem or WWI).

10. Thoroughly explain your interpretation of the poem's title. Include what you know from #9 and how both personification and onomatopoeia contribute to the overall meaning.